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1 October 1958

Report on Orientation visit to Alpha Portland Cement Company Plant
at Lime Kiln (Near Frederick) Md. on 26 Sept 58.

1. Arrangements.

A one day tour of the plant was arranged through the appropriate CIA channels. The following CST analysts composed the visiting group:

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The two former analysts are concerned with all aspects of the cement industry, while the latter two analysts were particularly concerned with new plant construction.

This plant was chosen to visit because it is a completely new installation* in close proximity to Washington.

2. Plant Visit.

The group was received by Mr. George Cosgrove, the plant superintendent, and discussed its interests with him prior to making a thorough tour of the quarry and plant with a plant engineer. After the tour considerable data on the plant operation and its construction was supplied by Mr. Cosgrove and the chief construction engineer of the Macdonald Engineering Company, which designed and built the plant.

* Operation commenced in July 1958.

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SUBJECT: Report on Orientation visit to Alpha Portland Cement Company, Lime Kiln, Md.

3. Description of the Plant.

It is a highly efficient, wet process, limestone plant, with two 400 foot, coal fired kilns. A visitors' guide to the plant which describes the processes, equipment and layout, of the plant, is appended.

It has a capacity of about 380,000 metric tons of cement per year and was built at a cost of \$16.7 million, excluding the cost of the land (69% for construction and 31% for equipment). Construction took approximately 18 months, and the labor force averaged 450 employees. (The total number engaged in construction was 731). When in full production there will be a total of 140 employees (including operating, supervisory, maintenance, and white collar personnel). The investment per employee (\$120,000) is one of the highest in US industry. Total cement storage capacity is 50,000 tons.

4. Value of the Visit.

Because of the Soviet and Chinese emphasis on the construction of new cement plants* a new American plant was of particular interest. The information on the costs and problems of construction, and the difficulties in commencing production at a new plant were particularly valuable.

* The USSR plans to complete 11-14 new plants in 1958-60 and Communist China has 10-15 new plants under construction at the present time.

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Enclosure:

Visitors Guide - Lime Kiln Plant

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Enclosure Missing